

Introduced by Senators Florez and Karnette

April 21, 2003

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to the Federal Communications Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 14, as introduced, Florez. Federal Communications Commission.

This measure would memorialize the Federal Communications Commission to formally delay the finalizing of the proposed rulemaking to promote competition and diversity in the media marketplace, and to schedule a public hearing to be held not later than June 15, 2003, in the Los Angeles area to facilitate the widest possible involvement of key elements of the creative community in the state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has
- 2 issued a notice of proposed rulemaking on longstanding
- 3 regulations that are designed to promote competition and diversity
- 4 in the media marketplace; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature believes that the
- 6 public's access to a multiplicity of information sources is a
- 7 governmental purpose of the highest order; and
- 8 WHEREAS, It has long been a basic tenet of national
- 9 communications policy that the widest possible dissemination of
- 10 information sources from diverse and even antagonistic sources is
- 11 essential to the health and welfare of our democracy; and



1 WHEREAS, The relaxation or elimination of numerous federal
2 media concentration regulations in recent years has let to an
3 unprecedented wave of consolidation in media ownership; and

4 WHEREAS, The impact of the unprecedented consolidation of
5 power in the hands of a few vertically integrated national media
6 chains have adversely impacted the once vital economic
7 community of independent producers in our state; and

8 WHEREAS, It appears that the predatory practices of merged
9 media has choked competition and stifled innovation to the
10 detriment of the general public; and

11 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has
12 held only one public hearing on the issue, and its chairperson has
13 repeatedly signaled that the proposed rulemaking will become
14 finalized in the coming months of this year; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
16 *jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully requests the Federal
17 Communications Commission to formally delay the finalizing of
18 the proposed rulemaking to promote competition and diversity in
19 the media marketplace in order for appropriate public hearings to
20 be held so that critical issues may be fully ventilated in a public
21 forum; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Federal communications Commission
23 schedule a public hearing to be held not later than June 15, 2003,
24 in the Los Angeles area to facilitate the widest possible
25 involvement of key elements of the creative community in the
26 state; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
29 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
30 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
31 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
32 States.

